



Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-13. (Cancelled).

14. (New) An aqueous dispersion of polymeric particles wherein the dispersion is formed in the presence of a stabilizing amount of an anionic alkoxylate surfactant of formula I



wherein R' is a C₁₆₋₂₂ hydrocarbon chain having two or more double bonds, at least two of said double bonds being conjugated;

OA is selected from the group consisting of oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene;

n is 2 to 60;

and X is an anionic group having at least one acidic hydrogen, or a salt thereof.

15. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein said anionic group is provided by a phosphorus acid group, a sulphur acid group or a carboxylic acid group.

16. (New) An aqueous dispersion of polymeric particles wherein the dispersion is formed in the presence of a stabilizing amount of an anionic alkoxylate surfactant of formula I



wherein R' is a C₁₆₋₂₂ hydrocarbon chain having two or more double bonds, at least two of said double bonds being conjugated;

OA is selected from the group consisting of oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene;

n is 2 to 60; and

X is an anionic group selected from the group consisting of acids or salts of phosphate, sulphate, succinate, carboxymethyl, maleate, carboxyethyl, sulphoethyl, and sulfopropyl.

17. (New) An aqueous dispersion of polymeric particles wherein the dispersion is formed in the presence of a stabilizing amount of an anionic alkoxyate surfactant of formula I



wherein R' is a C₁₆₋₂₂ hydrocarbon chain having two or more double bonds, at least two of said double bonds being conjugated;

OA is selected from the group consisting of oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene;

n is 2 to 60; and

X is an anionic group selected from the group consisting of acids or salts of sulphate, succinate, carboxymethyl, maleate, carboxyethyl, sulphoethyl, and sulfopropyl.

18. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein the dispersion of polymeric particles is prepared by addition polymerization of an addition polymerizable monomer.

19. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 18 wherein the addition polymerizable monomer is an ethylenically unsaturated monomer.

20. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 19 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of C₁ – C₁₂ alkyl acrylates and methacrylates, methacrylic acid, hydroxyalkyl methacrylate, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, styrene, vinyl styrene, vinyl toluene, vinyl pyridine, di-alkyl maleate and vinyl chloride.

21. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein R' has the following structure:



wherein K is 8 or 9.

22. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein R' is derived from linoleyl alcohol by alkoxylation of said alcohol.

23. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein OA is oxyethylene.

24. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein OA is oxypropylene.

25. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 where X is sulphate, carboxymethyl or a salt thereof.

26. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein the salt is an amine, ammonium or alkali metal salt.

27. (New) A method for preparing an aqueous dispersion of polymeric particles comprising conducting an addition or condensation polymerization in the presence of a stabilizing amount of an anionic alkoxyate surfactant of formula I



wherein R' is a C₁₆₋₂₂ hydrocarbon chain having two or more double bonds, at least two of said double bonds being conjugated;

OA is selected from the group consisting of oxyethylene, oxypropylene and oxybutylene;

n is 2 to 60; and

X is an anionic group having at least one acidic hydrogen, or a salt thereof.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 wherein X is an anionic group selected from the group consisting of acids or salts of phosphate, sulphate, succinate, carboxymethyl, maleate, carboxyethyl, sulphoethyl and sulfopropyl.

29. (New) An aqueous dispersion according to claim 14 wherein X is an anionic group selected from the group consisting of acids or salts of sulphate, succinate, carboxymethyl, maleate, carboxyethyl, sulphoethyl and sulfopropyl.